

*"when using an archive, it has to be a meaningful process, these are not merely images but vestiges of reality we need to confront". Rithy Panh*

We begin the year, appropriately, with a review of the last 12 months. In our general aim to collect, broadcast and enrich the cultural and historical audiovisual memory of Cambodia, a lot has been achieved. Day by day, the Audiovisual Resource Center project is taking shape. Thanks to the staunch support of the Cambodian and French authorities, the commitment of a host of archive institutions, and the financial contribution of the French government and a number of its agencies, the operational phase of the project was initiated in June 2005. We are particularly grateful to the following French institutions for their support: the National Institute of Audiovisual Media (Ina), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Senate Group for Friendship with Cambodia and Laos, the National Center of Cinematography (CNC), the Agence Intergouvernementale de la Francophonie (AIF), the Ministry of Culture and Communication, the Gaumont Pathé Archives and the City of Paris. We are also grateful for the support of our international partners: UNESCO and the Thomson Foundation.

The following steps have already been completed:

- > A custom application has been developed with the support of the Ina (the French National Institute of Audiovisual Media) which makes it easy to search, access and view the collected archives, as well as import new ones into the database.
- > Significant audio and video archives have been identified; some have been digitized, indexed and imported in the database. The sources include Ina, Gaumont Pathé Archives, the National Defense Communication and Production Center (ECPAD) and the International Comity of the Red Cross (ICRC). The CNC and MAE archives will follow soon.
- > Additional material (video, cinema, photos, radio program, music) is being added to this ambitious global inventory with the help of a group of volunteers. We are in the process of collecting photographic material from the MAE, the National Museum of Cambodia, the Rodin Museum, the French School of the Far East (EFEO), the Charles de Gaulle Institute, the French Society of Photography, the French Society of Geography, the Guimet Museum, the Museum of the Quai Branly as well as from many private collections.
- > We applied for the financial support of the "Plan Images Archives" to restore vital Cambodian pictures held by the Cambodian Office of Cinema and by the Cambodian National Television (TVK).
- > The AADAC and ARPAA teams have grown to include two archivists each, a computer programmer, as well as management and communication specialists. The lead archivist also took a special training program to enhance her level of expertise.
- > The redesign and renovation of the Center's building, a classic example of early 60's 'modernist' Cambodian architecture is now in full swing. The plans were conceived during a seminar arranged between architecture students from the Bordeaux (France) and Phnom Penh Universities.
- > The construction work began in mid December under the guidance of Michel Verrot, a senior architect and teacher at the Royal University of Cambodia, assisted by a French and a Spanish student who took part thank to the European "Tandem" program.
- > The bidding process for supplying the computer and network equipment of the Centre is ongoing.



photo : Anne-Laure Porée

#### THE NEXT STEPS OF THE FIRST PHASE

- > To continue searching for, collecting and digitizing material for the database,
- > To start surveying and securing the already existing archives held by official Cambodian institutions
- > To continue hiring and training local staff (archivists, an IT technician, translators, an assistant manager, ...)
- > To finalize the renovation of the building and the equipment requirements (including computers)
- > To have the furnishings designed, manufactured and installed.

#### "A PILOT PROJECT"

this is how the Center was described in Cannes at the seminar entitled "Saving the images of the South: a commitment for cultural diversity" (May 2005), and later in Beijing during the International Conference on Audiovisual Archives (October 2005), with the perspective that it may inspire other organizations all over the world.

Contributing to the project could include donating of non-commercial rights to archives you own related to Cambodia, providing technical support, equipment or providing financial support....

IF YOU WISH TO HELP THE PROJECT, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO GET IN TOUCH WITH OUR TEAMS IN PHNOM PENH OR IN PARIS.

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